

SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT
OR
BOROUGH OF SUDBURY,
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
FOR 1900.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board and of the West Suffolk County Council.)

Population, 1881, 6,592. Population 1891, 7,059.

Acreage, 2,093. Rateable value £19,428.

Geological formation, Chalk, covered with brick earth or drift sands and gravels, superficially alluvium.

BIRTHS.

There were 150 births registered during the year, equivalent to a birthrate of 20.8 per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates in the borough during the past seven years were

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Births	170	... 180	... 177	... 129	... 187	... 156	... 150
Birth-rate	24.0	... 25.4	... 25.2	... 18.2	... 26.4	... 22.0	... 20.8

The average for the last seven years is 170 or 24.0.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths from all causes registered in the district was 140, from which 24 deaths in the Workhouse and St. Leonard's Hospital from the rural parishes have to be subtracted, leaving the actual deaths as 116 equivalent to a death-rate of 16.4 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the past seven years were

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Deaths registered...	... 156	... 143	... 150	... 120	... 141	... 178	... 140
Deaths belonging to the district	137	... 111	... 125	... 96	... 113	... 146	... 116
Death-rate	... 19.3	... 15.7	... 17.7	... 13.5	... 16.0	... 20.6	... 16.4

The year's death-rate is lower than the average, which is 17.4 for the past ten years. These statistics are calculated on the basis of the population taken in 1899. The census returns which will be made this year ought to show an increase of population and consequently a reduction in the death-rate.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths among infants under one year of age were 18—this is equivalent to the proportion of 120.0 deaths per thousand births registered. The average for the last ten years comes to 110.7.

ZYMIC DISEASES.

The District was fortunately very free from Zymotic diseases during the year. There were two deaths from Typhoid fever, one from Puerperal fever, and one from infantile Diarrhoea.

The Zymotic death-rate for the past seven years was as follows—

1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
4.2	0	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5

DEATHS FROM ALL OTHER CAUSES—

Excluding non-residents who died in the workhouse, were from, Phthisis, 8; Bronchitis, 11; Heart Disease, 16; Cancer, 10; Premature Births, 4; Injuries, 10.

The foregoing vital statistics for the year, compare most favourably with preceding years so far as mortality is concerned, but with respect to births there has been a marked decline for the past two years. Nor is this peculiar to the Borough of Sudbury; the same falling off has taken place in the surrounding Districts.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATION ACT.

The cases notified during the year numbered 14, viz:—Typhoid fever, 3; Puerperal fever, 2; Erysipelas, 9.

Of the Typhoid fever cases, one occurred in the month of February, and was that of a lad aged 18, residing at the buildings used as a Police Station. The insanitary state of the drains had already been reported, but no steps had been taken to remedy them, and sewer gas was found to escape below the bedroom which the lad occupied. This case recovered, and the Police Station was removed to another part of the town.

The second case occurred in May, and was that of a man aged 68, who worked and lived on a river barge, only coming home for the Sunday. He had been working from the barge for some weeks on the repairs of Wisson bridge, the water used was from a well not far off. I procured a sample of this well water and on analysis found it good. He said he had fallen into the river some weeks previously and had not been well since. The man died.

The third case was that of a lady aged 35. No sanitary defects to account for the disease were found on the premises, she had previously partaken freely of oysters, procured from London, and the disease which ended fatally, was attributed to them.

Of the two cases of Puerperal fever notified, one occurred in January, and the other in May, so that there was no connection between them, nor with any of the cases of Erysipelas.

DIPHTHERIA.

A possible invasion of this most alarming disease was prevented as follows:—In the middle of December, some cases of diphtheria suddenly occurred in Long Melford. On visiting the affected houses, as Medical Officer of Health of that District, I found that two boys had been sent the day before, to the house of a relative in Cross Street. Following them there, I discovered the next morning in one of the boys, the early symptoms of diphtheria; with some difficulty I procured an old cab and had them conveyed back to their home in Melford, where both boys had severe attacks of the disease. The cab and the house in Cross Street were disinfected.

OTHER DISEASES.

GERMAN MEASLES—

Was rather prevalent towards the close of the year, affecting the attendance at the Schools. No fatal cases occurred.
INFLUENZA—

Paid a visit in the begining of the year, and many persons suffered from attacks, but it was not of so virulent a type as in previous visits.

Five infants died from diarrhoea and enteritis, due mostly to improper feeding, and not to any epidemic cause.

PHTHISIS—

Or consumption caused the deaths of 8 persons. At no distant date this disease may be included among those notified, as it is more and more becoming recognized that every person suffering from consumption is a possible source of infection to others unless the expectoration is carefully dis-infected or destroyed.

CANCER—

Caused the deaths of 10 persons. It is generally supposed that this disease is on the increase. This is very doubtful. The increase is more due to the larger number of cases of internal cancer which are now recognized and registered on their decease as such.

WATER SUPPLY.

A continuous supply of water from the Water Works has been well maintained throughout the year. Considerable improvement and renovation of the machinery was necessary owing to wear and tear, the engine and plant generally were overhauled and put into good working order, and a new pump and boiler provided, altogether costing about £1,000. Another improvement has to be made shortly, and that is to enlarge the storage capacity of the present well, which will be a decided economy in pumping expenses. The plans for this are prepared and the sanction of the Local Government Board has been obtained. To protect against waste and mis-use new Rules and Regulations have been introduced, not only affecting consumers, but also which is most important, the manner in which service pipes are to be laid down and connected. Many of these pipes have been hitherto carried through or across drains, sewers, wells or pits, where, if leakage takes place, it is impossible to be cognizant of the loss. The plumbing work is also to be done only by competent workmen, who are enrolled as "Authorised Water Works Plumbers."

The following is the latest analysis made of the Town Water, in April last. It is worth noticing, that the permanent hardness or hardness after boiling, has been much reduced since 1871, when the water was first supplied. The hardness was then 8.2, nearly double what it is now. The explanation of this improvement is, that the continual pumping of so many years, drains the water more speedily through the chalk from its surface supply and that in time the permanent hardness may be still further reduced. The hardness before boiling in 1871 was 29.6.

ANALYSIS OF WATER FROM SUDBURY WATER WORKS, APRIL, 1900.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE	Ammonia.		Chlorine.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Oxygen required.	Lime.	Magnesia.	Sulphuric Anhydride.	Total Solids in Solution.	Hardness		Microscopic Examination, Colour, &c.
	Free	Organic.								Before Boiling,	After Boiling.	
Public Supply.	.003	.002	3.50	0.37	0.015	11.84	1.41	2.04	36.4	19.6	4.6	Very slight flocculent deposit. no colour.

Remarks—This is an excellent water of great organic purity, and quite free from all signs of pollution. It may be used for drinking purposes with perfect safety. It is a bright and palatable water, free from colour. It is a hard water, but the greater part of the hardness is removed by boiling.

W, LINCOLNE SUTTON F.I.C., *Norfolk and Suffolk County Laboratories.*

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE.

In my report of the previous year, 1899, I mentioned that the new and necessary scheme for the disposal of the town sewage was intended to begin with the most urgent part, viz., the Wents and Melford Road Section, but the result of the enquiry of the Local Government Board, which was not made known until last October, was, that they did not approve of dealing with one section, but must take the general scheme as a whole. Therefore another enquiry to deal with this is expected shortly.

Further examinations have been made of the existing old sewers, and considerable reconstruction of them will be found necessary to make them available for conveying surface and storm water, new surface drains will be required in many parts of the town, and taking in the Wents and Cornard road, where none exist, about 4½ miles altogether, may be necessary.

In the meantime, the pail collection of sewage continues in use. There are now 542 tubs that have to be systematically collected and the contents disposed of. Complaints are often made of the nuisance arising from the places of deposit, so that it will be satisfactory when this system is superceded.

HOUSES.

There were 10 new houses erected and inspected during the year. 16 houses were reported as unfit for human habitation, with the following results—

six were put into habitable repairs,
one, the occupiers left and an unsafe portion was pulled down.
nine, closing orders were obtained.

Of these, nine, three were put into habitable repairs, the other six remain closed, except that a portion of one is allowed to be used as a workshop. No cases of overcrowding were reported.

FACTORIES AND TRADES.

The factories in the District are, 6 Silk-weaving, 2 Mat-making, 2 Stay-making, 1 Soap and Candle Works. All have been conducted without offence or complaint in their various trade processes.

Four notices were received from the Inspector of Factories and Workshops, respecting minor defects in workshops which were at once attended to.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.—

Systematic as well as special Inspections have been made during the year. Two slaughter houses were found defective and had repairs made to floors and drainage, one lodging house was condemned as not complying with requirements and was closed. License was granted to another house to be used as a lodging house instead.

Legal proceedings were taken in three cases with regard to the closing of houses unfit for human habitation.

No patients were admitted into the Isolation Hospital during the year. The Hospital is kept in readiness and is occupied in part by a man and his wife, the latter being a nurse.

The following is the report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. T. W. A. Hayward, C.E., F.S.I.

Number of Nuisances removed by written notice	...	...	...	154
" " " " verbal notice	...	...	...	205
" " " " additional houses provided with water	...	...	...	11
" " " " privies, using the tub service	...	...	...	16
" " " " new houses erected and inspected	...	...	...	10
" " " " old houses reported unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	16
" " " " houses made fit for habitation	...	...	...	9
" " " " orders obtained for closing houses	...	...	...	9
" " " " houses disinfected	...	...	...	2
" " " " notices received from the Inspector of Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	4
(All of which were remedied).				

Several defective sewers were repaired.

Several ditches into which sewage flows, were cleaned.

Numerous nuisances were removed in the form of ashes and refuse heaps, besides the systematic collection,

Tabular statements according to the forms required by the Local Government Board and the West Suffolk County Council are appended to the Official Copies of this report,

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

